



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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BOARD OF HEALTH•

Austin Sumner, MD, MPH, Chair • David Casey, RN • Mary D. Hart, RN • Julie Hathaway, MD, PhD • Caroline Tassey, APRN

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR

Linda Ayer

HEALTH OFFICER

William Ward

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013, 5:30 PM**

Attending: *Austin Sumner, Chair, David Casey, , Mary Hart, Julie Hathaway William Ward, Linda Ayer*

Absent: *Caroline Tassey*

Public: *Larry Solt, Dan Cahill*

Meeting called to order by Chair, Austin Sumner at 5:40 PM

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of Prior Meeting	No changes to Agenda	Approved Agenda/ Minutes (ask Meg re: powerpoint)...Stays as neighborhood Safety Issues
2. Public Forum	Larry Solt and Dan Cahill presented a proposal for beekeeping ADDENDUM A: for Burlington Area	BOH has no authority to approve, but can address

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	<p>Community Gardens up at Starr Farm site.</p> <p>Larry Solt (member of VT Beekeeping Association): Currently there are 2 beehives at Rock Point School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational effort to inform everyone about basics of “beekeeping” – involving more people, raising awareness among young people. • Pilot project to get City Council approval to establish two hives (possibly three) in an area of about 800 square feet before gardens start up in May. • These bees are NOT yellow jackets and are not aggressive. <p>Presented best practices of beekeeping for pollination to increase vegetable yields:</p> <p>Addendum B: Denver Beekeeping Ordinance & Best practices-VT Beekeepers Association,</p> <p>Dan Cahill: Currently there are no barriers to beekeeping in Burlington and Parks and Rec is seeking opportunities to develop partnerships before an ordinance is in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any concerns re:beekeeping from task force that is currently revising Ag 5.61 5.62 Urban Ag. <p>David Casey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Currently there are no task force directives re: beekeeping within the ordinance. There is a desire to set up regulations however currently addressing most salient issues first.</i> • <i>Beekeeping connects with BOH Healthy Lawns, Healthy Lives project efforts as pesticide use is harmful to bees and efforts</i> 	<p>health concerns and connect the benefits to the work with Healthy Lawns Healthy Lives program.</p>
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	<p><i>to o educate about pesticide impact on the bees.</i></p> <p>Dan Cahill says currently there are approximately 20 hives in Burlington; Bill Maier has hives in the Intervale.</p> <p><i>Austin Sumner:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are you looking for assistance in writing a bee ordinance?</i> <p>Larry Solt has seen copies of some, i.e. Denver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Currently no BOH subcommittee to address the issues around bee keeping.</i> <p><i>David Casey: What are the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Locations of hives on city properties.</i> • <i>Bee lines (orient hives “south” outside people path).</i> • <i>Liabilities re: bee stings.</i> <p>A map was drawn showing the positioning of the hives beyond dog park which is a good spot as it is an open site on city property community gardens.</p> <p><i>Austin Sumner: is there an increase in stings/ reactions?</i> None reported</p> <p><i>David Casey: What happens to honey?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belongs to beekeeper. • Every honey jar has beekeepers name address and warning that under 1 year shouldn’t use. <p>Dan Cahill : Hives would require a “vendor” application to have access to a public space defining arrangement and purpose and identifying benefits to community of the program.</p> <p>Community Garden Advisory Board unanimously approved the Beekeeping project. Time line for</p>	
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	<p>implementation is March/April 2014.</p> <p>Possible positions of the BOH discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This does not pose a public health hazard. No concerns regarding safety issues. More bees is a positive. <p>Possible statements of support?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BOH supports urban beekeeping according to VT Beekeeping Association best practices. in Burlington and does not find that it is a public health hazard.</i> • <i>BOH supports urban beekeeping. It has reviewed the proposal submitted by Larry Solt on beekeeping on city property utilizing VT Beekeepers Association best practices. The BOH supports this proposal.</i> <p>David Casey raised questions of liability to city for a bee sting. <i>(Liability does not rest on BOH).</i></p> <p>Discussion ensued about how to determine if a public health hazard exists.</p> <p>David Casey: The Urban AgTask Force will most likely not be addressing this beekeeping component of the ordinance by spring. Suggests that BOH have public hearings and undertake investigation and research at level BOH conducted for F-35.</p> <p>Austin Sumner encouraged Larry Solt and Dan Cahill to continue negotiating the proposal. Reminded BOH to keep within the scope of the BOH goals.</p>	<p>Check with city attorney re: if there are liability issues if the beehives are on “public” property.</p> <p>No conclusion was reached.</p> <p>BOH to gather more information and make a reasonable determination whether there is a health hazard at a future meeting.</p> <p>Austin Sumner to do a public search about beekeeping public health issues;</p> <p>BOH and HLHL program participants invited to BEEKEEPER’S Convention at the Champlain Valley Expo in January. Larry Solt will send dates of the VT Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting.</p>
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Emerging Issues:	<p>MisLEAD Movie: Mary Hart, Julie Hathaway & William Ward attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Preservation presents a huge issue in lead abatement in Burlington. • Andrea Haugen, MHP at VDH is interested in talking with BOH regarding the release of lead level test results. • Are Burlington Schools following safe lead practices in renovations? 	BOH needs to address School Inspections & Safe Lead practices during renovations at Strategic Planning Meeting
3. Chair's Report	Nothing to report	
4. Members' Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Preparedness • Drug Awareness • Urban Agriculture Task Force • Food Safety 	<p>Nothing to report</p> <p>Release of survey data - currently NSI is going to neighborhood NPA meetings.</p> <p>VDH wants to work with BOH on the educational component.</p> <p>Caroline Tassej submitted information on E-cigarettes.</p> <p>David Casey reported that the next meeting is to be scheduled. Hoping to have an Islamic religious leader address slaughtering practices.</p> <p>Mary Hart says there are goat herds at some properties to eat poison ivy.</p> <p>No report.</p>	<p>BOH will examine survey data at the Strategic Planning Meeting</p> <p>Reminder on FPF for NSI Survey: Mary and Julie attended BPHC Community Award Ceremony</p> <p>BOH postponed discussion of e-cigarettes article to next meeting.</p>
5. Staff Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code Enforcement Updates 	ADDENDUM C: Health Officer's Report for November 2013	Send notifications of Health Officer Trainings to the Board.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLHL • Web Updates/Front Porch Forum • Other 	<p>Julie Hathaway, Bill Ward, Tim Banks & Linda Ayer met with Champlain College Program Director, Suzanne Glover, and two work study students to define expectations and set a timeline for goals. Student will have branding ideas to present at the next meeting, December 16, 2013. Suzanne Glover will explore opportunities with business school marketing students to expand on these efforts.</p> <p>FPF postings for November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to complete surveys • National Diabetes Month <p>Strategic Planning Meeting – January 12 or January 19, 2014; Sunday from 9-noon, DPW conference room:</p>	<p>BOH members to choose either Sunday, January 12 or January 19, 2014 for Strategic Planning FY15.</p>
6. Agenda Items/Next Meeting	Emerging Issues: Bee keeping, e-cigarettes, storm water issues - coal tar sealants, Member Reports, Emergency Preparedness, Staff Reports, Strategic Planning Agenda	
7. Adjournment	Adjourned 7:23 PM	

ADDENDUM A: Beehive Proposal

Bee Keeping Proposal for the Burlington Area Community Gardens

Starr Farm Community Garden Site- by Larry Solt, November 4, 2013

Background: I started keeping honey bees in 1978 when we built our first home on the Elmore Mountain Road in Elmore, Vermont when I was the band director for the Stowe Public Schools. I had three hives, which I built with other faculty at Stowe High School.

When our family moved to our current home on Edgemoor Drive, I kept my bee equipment in storage in our garage since there was no really good location for the bee hives. Since working for Burlington Parks & Recreation at the Robert Miller Center Community & Recreation Center, Gus Buchanan, from the Rock Point School, and I had a conversation one evening when he brought some students over

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for an NPA meeting at the Miller Center. Last year, he invited me to keep my hives with his at the Rock Point School. Now I would like to move my 2 hives to the Starr Farm Community Garden this coming early spring season.

My wife, who retired recently as horticulturist at the Essex Resort & Spa, Jim Flint and me (along with many others) started the Starr Farm Gardens in 1993. We were the site coordinators for the first 5 years. Maggie Leugers talked me into being the chair of BACG for a while in the 1990's, so I have always supported Community Gardening, which leads me to my proposal to the current Board of Directors.

The benefits of honey bee pollination to vegetables and fruits are becoming more obvious now because of recent publicity of the plight of the honey bee. Pesticides, GMO crops, chemicals like Roundup, and mono crop farming all contribute to the decline of honey bee populations. Varroa mites have also caused problems for the honey bees.

Many communities and states are now encouraging more urban bee keeping in community gardens, backyard bee keeping and even roof top bee keeping in cities. I have included some references later in this proposal for your reading interest.

I am requesting that I keep my current 2 bee hives, now at the Rock Point School to Starr Farm Gardens with the startup of a third hive this May. I propose an area on the northwest corner of the property (refer to the 3 pictures included). I received a draft document from Steve Parise, the Vermont Agriculture Production Specialist, Vermont Best Practices for Beekeeping. Along with my many years of beekeeping experience and continued membership in the Vermont Beekeepers Association, I am committed to good beekeeping practices.

I would need to construct a 5 foot high (wire)fence, 10 feet by 15 feet, to keep curious humans safely away from the hives, to discourage vandalism, and to protect the honey bees. The bee hives entrance need to be south facing. I would use for the first year and "bamboo type barrier" so when the bees exit and return to the hive they would be directed well above any humans or animals.

Eventually, a green living barrier would be best like arborvitae. Education of the participating gardeners is also a good plan for anyone who has a fear of bees. Honey bees are non aggressive.

I hope the Board will approve my proposal as everyone benefits from the pollination of all the plants in the garden.

Larry Solt: 111 Edgemoor Drive, Burlington, VT 05408 l.solt@burlingtontelecom.net

Pictures of the location suggested: (A small round fencing loop is used to locate bee hives)

15 feet south of the locust trees nearest the fence.

40 feet west of the small red tool shed.

25 feet east of the 2-wire fence (where the horses used

!! to be at the end of the field) 65 feet due north of the large apple tree and picnic table.

Due south is in the direction of the large apple tree.

A 5-6 foot barrier (fence and netting) on the south side of the apiary (bee hive area) keeps the bees

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leaving and returning to the hive well above pedestrian foot traffic. Eventually, this could be shrubs and fencing. The sides of the apiary only need to be 4 feet in height- fencing to keep out curious people from the hive area. Bees do not leave from the side or rear of the hive.

Memo from: Larry Solt to BOH 11/12/13:

Yesterday (11/11/13) at the BACG (Burlington Area Community Garden's) Board Meeting, the Board gave their approval to my bee hive proposal.

I would like to attend your Board of Health meeting on Nov. 14th to discuss getting your approval, also.

On pages 50-53 of the Urban Agricultural Task Force Report to the City Council (2012), there are specific recommendations:

5.6.3 Recommended Actions:

5.6.3.1 Revise zoning ordinance to accommodate beekeeping

5.6.3.2 Adopt a general beekeeping ordinance

5.6.3.3 Promote education on beekeeping

5.6.3.4 Consider bees and other pollinators in city landscaping decisions

ADDENDUM B: Denver Ordinance & Best Practices for Beekeeping

Beekeeping in Denver Urban Gardens Community Gardens

Denver City Council 2008

Number of hives:

The ordinance allows no more than two hives per zone lot. Many community gardens encompass more than one lot, but DUG believes it is prudent not to start more than two hives in any community garden.

Placement of hives:

The ordinance requires hives to be placed in the rear 1/3 of the lot, at least five feet from the side and rear property lines. It may be difficult to apply this provision literally in a community garden, but DUG encourages gardeners to place hives in an inconspicuous location as far as possible from sidewalks and other public areas, and at least five feet from any property line.

Barriers:

The ordinance requires hives to be placed "so that the bees must fly over a six-foot barrier, which may be vegetative, before leaving the property". Make sure your community garden has a hedge or fence at least six feet high between the beehive and the property line.

From the American Community Gardening Association: www.communitygardennews.org

Bees!! Nature's Miraculous Workers

As more municipalities around the country make beekeeping in urban areas legal, beehives in community gardens are growing in popularity. Bees are hardworking creatures, and indeed a miracle of nature - essential to the circle of life celebrated in all community gardens.

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Join us below for a conversation with **West Coast urban gardener Erik Knutzen**, author with Kelly Coyne of "The Urban Homestead" and "Making It: Radical Home Ec for Post Consumer World." Follow them at <http://www.rootssimple.com/p/about.html>

Stacked hives, known as Langstroth hives (above), and a top bar hive (below) host bee colonies at The Battery Conservancy Park in Lower Manhattan in New York City. The bees pollinate what is growing at the urban farm at The Battery, originated this season by the environmental club at the nearby Millennium High School. The Battery Conservancy says that 650 students from 8 schools have now signed up to farm, and it is expanding the program to include community groups and people who want to do some digging, planting and nurturing.
www.sfdpw.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=2490

Beehives for the Hercules Community Garden by Scott Jorgensen — Kickstarter www.sandiego.gov/development-services/pdf/news/beekeeping.pdf
Community garden buzzing with new beehive - WTOP.com

The District's Urban Forestry Administration has put nine beehives near several community gardens and at other places around the city (WTOP/Brennan Haselton) www.herbanhoney.com | a sweet urban apiary located in the herb garden at Leland Community Gardens in Jamaica Plain, MA

The Honeybee Conservancy » Sponsor a Hive

By welcoming honeybees into our neighborhoods and community gardens we increase the quality and yield of what we grow and help to secure the sustainability of the world's greatest pollinators. **Join the bee movement and sponsor a hive of honeybees today**

About the hive: This hive serves pollinates a green space in a skyscraper-filled part of Manhattan.. According to one of the beekeepers, "the hive brings surprise and joy to the faces of passersby when they see urban beekeeping taking place in the Big Apple." In addition to pollinating downtown Manhattan, the honey bee hive serves as an educational resource for nearby grade school students learning about pollination and urban agriculture.

I can't imagine that there is anyone, who has not heard the alarms surrounding the disappearance of Honey Bees. PA has 50% fewer colonies than it did in 1983. School children are urging their parents to "help the honey bees" <http://www.helpthehoneybees.com/> Supporters of the Honey Bees including local gardening clubs, and environmental groups. This is because most people understand that Honey Bees are beneficial insects and not pests. **Otherwise, who would care?**

Honey Bees differ from Yellow Jackets and Wasps, just as a Seeing-Eye Dog differs from a Wolf. Same species, but entirely different in temperament.

Who else thinks Honey Bees are beneficial insects? Honey Bees are on roof tops in Paris, in Philadelphia, in small boroughs like Jenkintown and Ambler. Even the White House has Honey Bee hives. New York City overturned its ban on beekeeping, because of their increased awareness of the importance of Honey Bees <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/16/bring-on-the-bees/>

The State of PA (and the U.S. Government) consider Honey Bees to be beneficial insects, critical to our state's and nation's agriculture. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent in Pennsylvania (at Penn State) and at other Universities, researching the causes of CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder). These funds are earmarked to help the Honey Bee because it is such a beneficial insect. Otherwise who would care.

VERMONT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES for Beekeeping (Draft)

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GENERAL

All hives and locations must be registered with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

Maintain membership in a local and/or state beekeeping organization.

Participate in meetings and beekeeping organizations.

Subscribe to one or more beekeeping journals to keep up to date on what is happening in the beekeeping industry.

Take a beekeeping class, and/or attend club sponsored workshops.

Complete the VBA Certification Program.

Visit and explore the many great beekeeping websites online.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR HIVE PLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Keep records of all bee related activities.

Maintain hive numbers appropriate for the size of the property taking into consideration the surrounding land uses and potential for negative human or animal interactions.

Keep no more than 2 hives (and one nuc) on a property of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre or less.

Keep no more than 4 hives (and 2 nucs) on a property of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

Keep no more than 6 hives (and 3 nucs) on a property of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre.

Regardless of lot size: if all hives are situated at least 200 feet in any direction from all property lines of the lot on which the apiary is situated, no limit on the number of hives.

Regardless of lot size: as long as all adjoining property that falls within a 200 foot radius of any hive is undeveloped property, no limit on the number of hives.

No hives will be maintained in a residential area in such a manner as will constitute a substantial nuisance to any neighbors, pets or livestock.

No hives should be located within 10 feet of any property line.

All hives within 20 feet of a property line should have a solid fence or vegetative barrier 5 feet or more in height between the hives and the property line.

All hives within 30 feet of a public sidewalk or roadway should have a solid fence or dense vegetative barrier or be elevated so as to direct the flight path of the bees well above traffic and pedestrians.

Do not locate any hives within 50 feet of any tethered, fenced, or kenneled animal.

Build or plant screens so hives are out of sight as much as possible.

Use neutral colors for hives so that they may "blend in" better with their surroundings.

An adequate supply of water should be provided from March 1 to October 31.

ROUTINE AND ON-GOING MAINTENANCE

Maintain only gentle colonies and employ good swarm control techniques.

Re-queen any colonies that act aggressively over a period of time.

Ideally, all queens should be marked.

All hives must be in moveable frame hives to facilitate inspection for brood diseases.

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Colonies should be inspected by the beekeeper, OR their delegate, periodically to insure they are queen-right, have no unmanaged disease or pest issues and have adequate space for expansion of both the brood nest and for honey storage.

WHEN AND HOW TO INSPECT COLONIES

Do not manipulate or disturb colonies if neighbors or the general public are participating in outside activities or using machinery within 75 feet of the apiary.

Do not open colonies when the weather is not favorable.

Only inspect colonies during the brightest and warmest times of the day, usually late morning to mid-afternoon, when field bees are most likely to be out foraging.

Extended hive manipulations, especially removing honey, should be planned to accommodate neighbors' activities.

Beekeepers should always use a smoker when working bees and when mowing or trimming around colonies.

Maintain good sanitation practices in the bee yard to avoid any robbing or attracting unwanted wildlife.

TREATMENTS FOR DISEASES AND PESTS

Be able to identify diseases, mites and other hive abnormalities.

These would include American Foulbrood Disease, European Foulbrood Disease Chalkbrood Disease, Sac Brood Disease, Varroa Mites, Bee Parasitic Mite Syndrome; Drone Layers, Laying Workers and Queenless Colonies.

Incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for mite control by using resistant stock and other mite reducing strategies such as screened bottom boards, drone comb removal, etc.

When/if using mite control materials read and follow all label directions.

HONEY EXTRACTION AND MARKETING

Only harvest honey when it is sufficiently "ripe". Using a refractometer helps to assure this condition.

When harvesting, keep all exposed honey covered to prevent robbing and/or possible contamination from dust, dirt or other foreign material.

Extract honey as soon as possible after harvesting.

Keep the honey processing area clean and free from any possible contaminants.

Use only clean equipment and containers when processing and packing honey and other hive products.

Label your honey properly if being sold into the retail market.

Portions of this document are borrowed from the following sources:

"Best Management Practices for Beekeeping", Maine State Beekeepers Association, 8/10/12.

"Best Management Practices for Maintaining. European Honey Bee Colonies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania".

8/13 REV

ADDENDUM C: Health Officer and Code Enforcement Report November 14, 2013

Operations: **Inspections**

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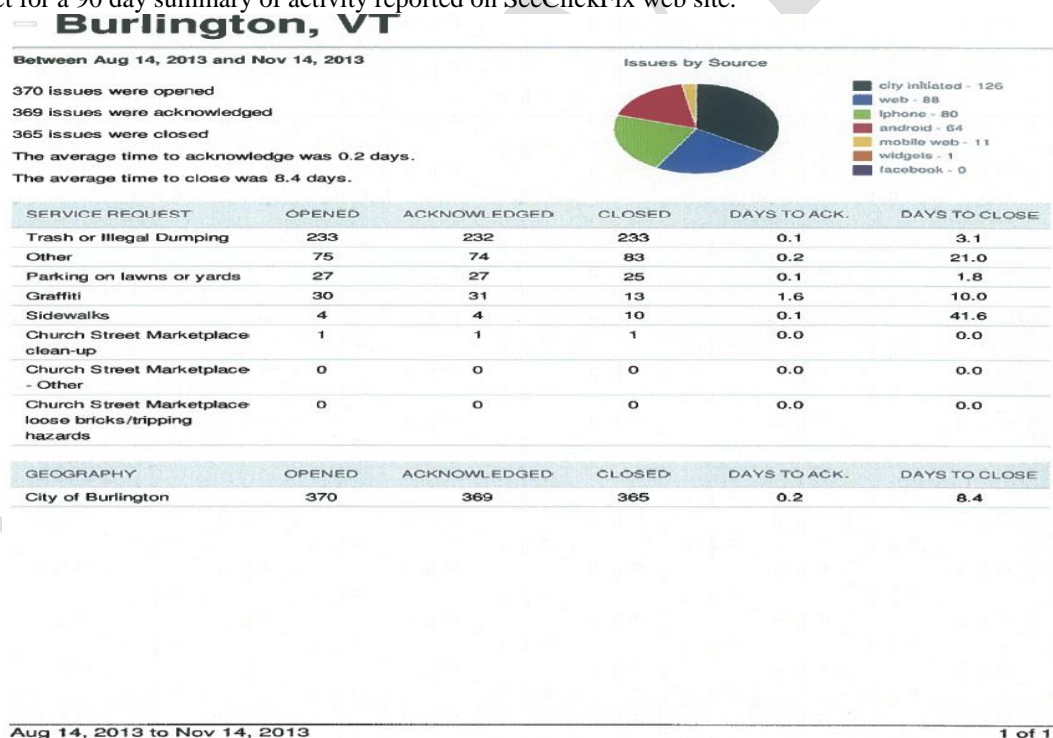
The housing inspection totals for the first 9 months of 2013 are 1,962 rental units inspected. The 2012 total for the same 9 month period was 1,905 rental units inspected.

Training

Three members of the Code Enforcement Staff attended the 2013 National Code Enforcement Conference in Oklahoma City, OK from October 29th to November 1st. One of those staff members attended on a scholarship from Safeguard Properties. Our Case Manager Deborah Dalton wrote an essay and was selected by the scholarship committee as one of the scholarship recipients for this year's AACE conference.

The Annual Town Health Officer Trainings will be held in December and March at 4 locations around the state. The final presentation of the day at each workshop is titled, "Tips from a Health Officer by Bill Ward, Director of Code Enforcement and Town Health Officer, City of Burlington.

SeeClickFix : Attached sheet for a 90 day summary of activity reported on SeeClickFix web site.



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